

## The Reformers.

Here is their address to the people of the country in which they say:

There are several great questions which seem to lead to all others in point of importance and upon which several distinct political parties have been organized. Chief among these are the finance, liquor, labor, transportation, tariff, suffrage and land questions.

The committee is of the opinion that no political party can form, with reasonable hope of success, in a country like this, with such vast, complicated and diversified interests, under any name which involves but "one idea."

No party bearing such a cognomen—and there have been many of them—has ever succeeded in this country. We fully endorse the latest official utterances of the executive committee of the Prohibition party, in which it says: "What we need is a new party, a people's party, not an office-seeking party. A party that can and will grapple with the problems of the times, that will de-throne the grog shop, and with the higher aims and purer purposes which inspire such a party, will be able to consider all the great and important questions now before the people—the proper adjustment of the tariff, the restraining power of the law over monopolies, the labor problem, the relation of railroads to the great farming interests of the country, the conservation of the financial interests of the mass, the promotion of public education, in short, the establishment as a living reality of a government of the people and for the people." To all of which we say amen. But when it says, "Such a party is the Prohibition party," we beg to suggest that a more comprehensive name is necessary and that a platform comprising more of the essential reforms of the day will more rapidly gain the millions of votes needed to win the cause.

"We believe when the labor reformer discovers that the saloon is one of labor's great enemies, and that no true labor reform can be realized while the saloon is in the saddle, he will be ready to combine with all who wish the overthrow of the traffic. When the ballot reformer sees corrupt politics kept corrupt by saloon supremacy, he sees that the saloon must be overthrown before a substantial progress can be made in behalf of a pure ballot.

When "temperance and ballot reformers discover that no true reform can be realized while all these evils are in the saddle," they will be ready to combine with all those who wish the overthrow of these evils.

"We favor the utter suppression of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes by constitutional amendments, both in state and nation. We regard the traffic a pernicious and very dangerous factor in the politics of the nation. We would say that taxing a vice or a business for the purpose of repressing or suppressing it is not only foolish but wicked. If a business be wrong it should be abolished, but if it be right the government has no right whatever to trammel it."

We regard the liquor, labor, tariff, finance, suffrage, land and transportation questions as among the great leading questions in our present American politics. As to which of these great questions shall lead the column, the committee saith not, preferring rather to await the action of the national convention. So far as members of this committee are concerned, they care but little in what order these great questions are placed so long as they are placed in the platform.

For more than twenty years this has been a government of politicians by politicians, and for politicians and monopolies. Is it not time that the honest farmer, mechanic and laborer should have an equal chance in the race of life? To this end we, as National Reformers, have taken up the side of oppressed against the oppressor. Our motto is, and ever shall be: Down with the oppressor, down with the rum power, down with the monopolist, down with the trust, down with the extortioner, down with the land-grabber, down with the tariff to a reasonable figure, down with bank issues of money, down with polygamy and divorce laws throughout all the land, and in short, down with everything which interposes itself across the pathway of human progress.

And now to sum up, the object of this address is to bring together, if possible, all the various reforms of the nation into one great broad National Reform party, one in which the people of the Prohibition, Union Labor, Greenback, Knights of Labor, Farmers' Alliance, Industrial Union organizations, and every Democrat and Republican who desires reform can come without the sacrifice of one jot or tittle of his cherished principles of hopes.

The opportune moment has come, and the time to strike for "God and Home, and Native Land," wives and children, is forced upon us. Upon your action depends the honor and security of your households as well as the perpetuity of free government. Stand fast, quit yourselves like men; be strong. We therefore, upon the authority given us, do call a Union Organizing Convention of Reformers from all parties to be held in the city of Saint Louis, on Wednesday, the third day of September, 1890, for the purpose of adopting a national platform and the appointment of a national executive committee whose duty it shall be to organize a reform party in all the states and territories preparatory to placing in the field a great National Reform party in 1892.

Fellow countrymen, wake to a sense of your duties! The hands of the oppressors are upon us. Will you stand idly by and see your liberties and rights one by one wrested from you? Remember it was the Roman who destroyed Rome.

HIRAM MAINE,  
Chairman,  
WILLIS W. JONES,  
MRS. B. S. HEATH,  
SAM. H. COMINGS,  
EDWARD EVANS.

Dated Chicago, Ill., Jan. 18, 1890.

From THE BEACON, Springfield, O., May 27.

Van Bennett on "Original Packages."

The congressional convention held at Princeton to-day nominated Judge Land for congress. Van Bennett, of Kansas, made a ringing speech and reviewed the Dred Scott liquor decision of Democratic Supreme Judge Fuller. The Dred Scott decision consigned Judge Taney to oblivion, and Fuller is on his way to the same destiny. Said Bennett, under that decision a man may defy the law both of sovereign states and congress. He may defy the law of the general government as well as the law of the state.

Thus the supreme court overrides the sovereignty of all the states. State rights are absolutely trampled beneath the feet of the nation. The liquor traffic is supreme, greater than constitutions, greater than the police power of the state. If you can import in original packages and sell in original packages, then the revenue law of congress cannot and does not prohibit a man from selling in original packages. This original package decision is the butt cut of original sin. If the police power of the state cannot be bartered away by the legislature, nor by the people themselves, and the supreme court has so decreed in the Kansas case, then the supreme court is higher than the people, higher than the constitution that created it, and it can decide away the right to protect the public peace, public health and public morals, provided these life principles of the state run counter to the liquor traffic. The very devils in hell rejoice, the devil's bands and gamblers, the plug-uglies and cut-throats are jubilant on earth, at the fact that the liquor traffic owns, body, soul and breeches, the supreme court of the nation. Supreme court indeed! If villainy can be supreme, if the betrayal of constitutional and police law, the inalienable rights of the people to life, liberty and happiness is the supreme object for which the Supreme Court was created, then it has done its duty. It is guilty of treason to the government. It has surrendered the homes of the people to the liquor traffic; it has put its foot on the neck of the people; it has said, "Your religion is a farce, your morality is a fraud, your Bible a lie, integ-

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city and virtue myths," it has said, "This is not a government of the people, by the people and for the people, but a government of the liquor traffic for the thieves and thugs, by the gamblers and scoundrels of the land, and the supreme court is the willing tool of this criminal class. The decision overturns every precedent in favor of the police power of the state. There is no remedy for the homes of the land. They are to become the prey of the Republican and Democratic licensed saloons. There is a political hell for political judges as well as for corrupt politicians who trample the rights of the people under their feet. Robespierre set the guillotine in motion, but his own head was brought to the block. There is no tribunal above the people. The higher law is always enforced by the outraged people under the providence of God. They will bear so much, then comes retribution. I despise a tribunal that surrenders the liberties of the people to the saloon. It is as much treason to the American government to betray the homes to the saloon as to fire on the flag. It is a judicial shot at the star-spangled banner that waves over the christian homes, and means to command the rum hells of the land to tear down that flag. Thank God there are still left some "shoot them on the spot" fellows whenever they attempt to haul down down the stars and stripes whose protecting folds wave over the homes, and run them up over the original package drunkeries of the land. Gird on the armor. Prohibition is not a state issue any more. It is a national issue now. The supreme court has put it where congress must act, or they must politically die. There was great enthusiasm and all were rejoiced at the grand convention and straight talk from Bennett. Southern Indiana will double her vote this fall. We feel that that decision will stir the political cauldron to the bottom.

## Bond-holders vs. Gun-holders.

Up to June 30, 1888, the grand sum of three billion, six hundred and fifty-two million dollars has been paid to the bond-holders of our late war. Of this great sum, \$2,153,000,000 was paid as interest alone. During the same time, since 1861 to 1888, there have been paid as pensions to all our soldiers the sum of \$946,387,860, thus showing that all the ex-soldiers of our wars have received a little more than one-fourth as much as the amount paid to the bond-holders on their interest. It will be remembered that these bonds were made valid—substantially endorsed by the grand army that achieved our victory from 1861 to 1865. In other words, they became the indorsers with their lives and blood for the success of the cause, and the bonds would have been worthless without their victory. It will also be remembered that the soldiers received for their services in the late war not more than sixty cents on the dollar, and the residue has never been paid, and that now, it is said on high authority, at least 20,000 of our ex-soldiers are in the poor-houses of their

respective states.—From a speech by Gov. Hovey (Republican.)

## One of Henry Ward Beecher's Pranks.

When Mr. Beecher was a student in Amherst college he was given to pranks, as most collegians are. Once his tutor, who was over six feet tall and solemn in appearance, came to his room to expostulate with him for what he considered the boy's frivolous ways. Mr. Beecher was expecting the visit and had put into the wood closet all the chairs except one, which had been sawed off at the joint and stood about a foot from the ground; then he crawled through the hole in the student's table and, seated meekly among his books, awaited the visit. Finally, a grave rap was heard and a solemn figure appeared way up in the air.

Mr. Beecher and made as if he would show him the seat. "Don't move," said the professor; "I am about to have a little conversation with you." "Certainly," said Beecher, "pray sit down," at the same time indicating the only chair.

The tutor looked down at the low seat with some uncertainty and then commenced the process of sitting down. He went down, down, but finding nothing solid he straightened himself up again. "Let me get you a higher seat," said Mr. Beecher.

"No," said the tutor, "like a low seat," and with this he doubled himself like a jack-knife. As soon as he was seated, he looked at his knees like a grasshopper for a spring. When the eyes produced student and those of the solemn grindet all gravity gave way in consequence of the extreme ludicrousness of tacks and both joined in a hearty laughingly Union.

"To thine own self be true," are claim And it will follow, as the night the day Can't not then be false to any man."

## ELEVENTH YEAR!

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